IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In recent years, it has been eagerly desired to reduce waste processing solution in view of environmental conservation and space saving in the fields of medical diagnostic films and photomechanical films. Therefore, development of techniques relating to heat-developable image recording materials suitable for medical diagnostic films and photomechanical films, which can be efficiently exposed using a laser image-setter or a laser imager and provide clear black images having high resolution and sharpness, has been required. By the use of heat-developable image recording materials, a heat-developable processing system that is free from solutions of processing chemicals, is ~~and~~ simple, and does not adversely affect the environment can be provided to customers.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Although heat-developable image recording materials of such a type have been hitherto known, in most of these recording materials, the light-sensitive layer is prepared by using an organic solvent, for example, toluene, methyl ethyl ketone or methanol as a solvent for the coating solution. The use of organic

~~solvent~~ solvents is disadvantageous not only in that it adversely affects ~~to~~ the human body ~~in~~ during the production process, ~~of production~~ but also in that it causes an increase in the cost due to recovery of the solvent or other factors.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--However, these techniques are below the level of practical use since severe fog occurs and color tone of the image formed is very poor. A technique of using a polymer latex as a binder and forming a light-sensitive layer using an aqueous medium is described in JP-A-10-10669 and JP-A-10-62899. This technique opens the way for the production of a heat-developable image recording material, which is preferable from the ~~standpoints~~ standpoint of prevention of fog, good color tone of the image, environmental conservation, safety, cost, and the like.--